

## **Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About Partnership Projects**

### **What is a Partnership Project?**

A Partnership Project is a community-based effort to build an organization that will work with area merchants, commercial property owners, neighborhood residents and other partners to revitalize a once vibrant inner-city business district. Partnership Projects can receive funding assistance of \$5,000 from the Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization Program.

### **Where can this be done?**

A Partnership Project targets business districts located within older neighborhoods at a node, along a corridor, or within a cluster of business activity that historically served or currently serves the consumer needs of the adjacent neighborhood.

### **How many blocks should we involve in our Partnership Project Area?**

The NCR Program is designed to address the needs of relatively small, manageable areas where development of a consensus regarding goals and cohesion among the partners is realistically achievable. While no specific size limit is set, some factors to consider are: geographical boundaries, historical use, similar architectural features, and construction style.

### **What are some physical characteristics of a Partnership Project area?**

Some characteristics include: 1) an existing inventory of older commercial buildings not currently serving their best use due to vacancies, poor tenant mix, inadequate parking, as well as other factors; 2) vacant buildings which may present opportunities for mixed-use development; 3) narrow streets and shallow building set-backs which provide for a pedestrian friendly environment; 4) buildings with unique architectural features or style; 5) lack of streetscape amenities and 6) real or perceived problems with crime and safety issues such as graffiti and traffic.

### **What are some market characteristics of an area that is a good candidate for commercial revitalization through Partnership Projects?**

Market area characteristics include a lack of market information and coordinated leasing to target and identify a more diverse and complimentary business mix, little interest by commercial real estate community in leasing/sales of area property, a lack of identity or name recognition and poor image of the area in the eyes of potential customers and/or the lack of coordinated effort to maintain and promote the target area.

### **How do we apply?**

Contact the NCR office at 207-3927 so that program staff can begin to discuss your group's goals and assess your eligibility.